



Department of Medical Assistance Services  
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[www.dmas.virginia.gov](http://www.dmas.virginia.gov)

# MEDICAID MEMO

**TO:** All Providers of Behavioral Therapeutic Consultation Services and All Mental Retardation Case Managers Participating in the Virginia Medical Assistance Program

**FROM:** Patrick W. Finnerty, Director  
Department of Medical Assistance Services

**MEMO:** Special  
**DATE** 06/26/2006

**SUBJECT:** Update Regarding Behavioral Therapeutic Consultation Provider Qualifications

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify Medicaid providers of the changes in provider qualifications for Behavioral Therapeutic Consultation services for the Mental Retardation (MR) Waiver. The same provider qualifications will apply to the Individual and Family Developmental Disabilities Support (IFDDS) Waiver when the final regulations are effective fall 2006.

All providers enrolling as new Medicaid providers of behavioral therapeutic consultation on or after July 1, 2006, must possess one of the following:

- ❖ A Virginia license as a psychologist, psychiatrist, professional counselor, clinical social worker, or psychiatric clinical nurse specialist; OR
- ❖ a certification as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or Board Certified Associate Behavior Analyst (BCABA); OR
- ❖ an endorsement as a Positive Behavioral Supports Facilitator issued by the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University. Scholarships for this program are available from the Partnership for People with Disabilities. See contact information below.

This will allow the provision of two additional modalities of therapeutic consultation – Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) and Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) – to be billed as Medicaid MR Waiver services. These modalities are clinically proven to be effective for individuals with autism, autism spectrum disorders, and individuals with severe behavioral difficulties. PBS and

ABA are comprehensive approaches to behavior change that support people with challenging behaviors with the primary goal of improving the quality of life, while reducing or eliminating the problem behaviors.

Providers who are currently enrolled with DMAS to offer Behavioral Therapeutic Consultation (billing code #97139), but do not possess one of the qualifications listed above, will be granted a period of **one year** to obtain the appropriate license, certification, or endorsement in order to continue as a DMAS-enrolled Behavioral Therapeutic Consultation provider. By June 30, 2007, all providers of Behavioral Therapeutic Consultation will be expected to be licensed in the Commonwealth as a psychologist, psychiatrist, professional counselor, clinical social worker, or psychiatric clinical nurse specialist; possess certification or licensure in ABA or have an endorsement in PBS. Questions regarding the change in provider requirements should be directed to the DMAS Provider Enrollment Unit at 1-888-829-5373 (in state toll-free) or 1-804-270-5105.

The Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University offers a training curriculum in PBS for providers to obtain endorsement in the practice. This training curriculum and endorsement process is now recognized by DMAS for provider enrollment for Therapeutic Consultation. Scholarships sponsored by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services are available. To obtain information on the PBS endorsement process from the Partnership for People with Disabilities and the available scholarships, visit the website: [www.vcu.edu/partnership/pbs](http://www.vcu.edu/partnership/pbs) or call 1-804-828-3876.

Board certification as a Behavior Analyst or Associate Behavior Analyst (BACB) must be obtained through the Behavioral Analysis Certification Board, a non-profit corporation in Tallahassee, Florida. Information on the certification requirements and process can be obtained from the BACB web site at <http://www.bacb.com> or by postal mail at 1705 Metropolitan Boulevard, Suite 102 Tallahassee, Florida 32308.

### **ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION**

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option (ARS) to access information regarding Medicaid or FAMIS eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber identification. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 1-800-884-9730 or 1-800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.

### **“HELPLINE”**

The “HELPLINE” is available to answer questions Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on state holidays. The “HELPLINE” numbers are:

1-804-786-6273	Richmond area and out-of-state long distance
1-800-552-8627	All other areas (in-state, toll-free long distance)

Please remember that the “HELPLINE” is for provider use only. Please have your Medicaid Provider Identification Number available when you call.

### **COPIES OF MANUALS**

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at [www.dmas.virginia.gov](http://www.dmas.virginia.gov). Refer to the "DMAS Content Menu" column on the left-hand side of the DMAS web page for the "Provider Services" link, which takes you to the "Manuals, Memos and Communications" link. This link opens up a page that contains all of the various communications to providers, including Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order it by contacting Commonwealth-Martin at 1-804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates requested.

### **PROVIDER E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP**

DMAS is pleased to inform providers about the creation of a new Provider E-Newsletter. The intent of this electronic newsletter is to inform, communicate, and share important program information with providers. Covered topics will include changes in claims processing, common problems with billing, new programs or changes in existing programs, and other information that may directly affect providers. If you would like to receive the electronic newsletter, please sign up at [www.dmas.virginia.gov/pr-provider\\_newletter.asp](http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/pr-provider_newletter.asp).

Please note that the Provider E-Newsletter is not intended to take the place of Medicaid Memos, Medicaid Provider Manuals, or any other official correspondence from DMAS.